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CURIOUS QUESTIONS

IN

HISTORY, LITERATURE, ART, AND SOCIAL LIFE.

DESIGNED AS

A Manual of General Information.

BY

SARAH H. KILLIKELLY, F.S.Sc.

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE ILLUSTRATIONS.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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TO MY NIECE,
SARAH H. CARPENTER,
IN APPRECIATION OF HER NEVER FAILING
LOVE AND EVER READY HELP.

"TAKE IT, LOVE, THE BOOK AND ME TOGETHER ;
WHERE THE HEART LIES, LET THE BRAIN LIE ALSO."

S. H. K.

MAY, 1900.

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PREFACE.

As a Preface to this Third Volume of "Curious Questions," I would gladly give due credit to the authors of all the books from which it has been compiled. But the articles have been taken, mainly, from courses of lectures on foreign travel, given some years ago, and the authorities then quoted, not being noted at the time, cannot now be recalled.

Let me then acknowledge my indebtedness by saying: I have made me a book of other men's books; "only the thread that binds them is mine own." Also, I would acknowledge, gratefully, the kind favor of Hamilton Wright Mabie, LL.D., in reading the manuscript, and in allowing me to append his note of favorable comment.

Sarah H. Hillikelly

INTRODUCTION.

Miss Killikelly has had a long experience in trying to answer some of the multifarious questions which are asked in this day of eager interest in the world of science, of society and history. In reading the manuscript of the present volume of her series of "Curious Questions" I have been impressed by the range of topics upon which she has touched, and by my own need of information concerning many of the things of which she has written. I have never found her manifesting any interest in frivolous questions, although I have often found her disposed to throw light on curious and out-of-the-way incidents, associations and persons. The impression which her book leaves upon me is that of a well-informed student concerned only with the things which are worth knowing, and with that knowledge of the places to go for information which is likely to take the place of what used to be called scholarship; for the world is growing so large, and information in every department has taken on such vast proportions, that the scholar no longer pretends to know anything completely save the method of getting at facts and the places in which facts are to be learned. This book is a repository of facts, useful and curious, collected from many quarters by one whose experience entitles her to be called an expert.

Hamilton W. Mabie

TABLE OF QUESTIONS.

TO THE READER.

As the articles in this book are not essays, but merely answers to questions, it is very desirable that the following directions be observed :—

Before reading any article, turn to this Table, and read carefully the question that corresponds in number with the article.

1. When was Rome a deserted city for forty days? Page 1.
2. Who was the Ayrshire Ploughman? Page 2.
3. What city owns the house of Michael Angelo and its treasures? Page 5.
4. Why is a British soldier called "Tommy Atkins"? Page 7.
5. What is the national sport of Spain? Page 7.
6. What Hindu girl won recognition as a writer of English verse? Page 11.
7. What is the legend of the "Phantom Battle of Utrecht"? Page 12.
8. Why should Friday be accounted a lucky day in America? Page 14.
9. What was the "Trent Affair"? Page 15.
10. What is the legend of the river Seine? Page 19.
11. What five antique statues are in the Tribune of the Uffizi Gallery, Florence? Page 20.
12. What quaint episode transacted on the Vega of Granada is of world-wide interest? Page 23.

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